

REMARKS

The present amendment is submitted in response to the Office Action dated December 14, 2004, which set a three-month period for response, making this amendment due by March 14, 2005.

Claims 1-5 and 7-12 are pending in this application.

In the Office Action, the drawings were objected to for various informalities. Claims 1-2 and 5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Dauphin. Claims 1-5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by German Patent No. 19915327 to Pringle.

The Applicant notes with appreciation the allowance of claims 6-12 if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Turning first to the objections to the drawings, Fig. 1 has been amended to indicate element 16.2 (changing the second occurrence of 16.1).

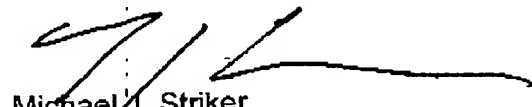
With regard to the stated objection that "18.1 and 15" were both used to designate the connecting points, the Applicant respectfully disagrees. Reference numeral 15 indicates the cushion receiving tube, while 18.1 clearly indicates the connection points. However, for the purposes of clarity, the lead line for element 15 was changed to an arrow directed to the tube as a whole.

In light of the allowance of claims 6-12, claim 1 has been amended to add the features of claim 6, which has been canceled. Claims 7 and 9-12 were amended to depend from claim 1, rather than claim 6.

Because claim 1 now includes the features of allowed claim 6, claim 1, along with dependent claims 2-5 and 7-12, now stand in condition for allowance. Action to this end is courteously solicited.

Should the Examiner have any further comments or suggestions, the undersigned would very much welcome a telephone call in order to discuss any remaining issues.

Respectfully submitted,



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